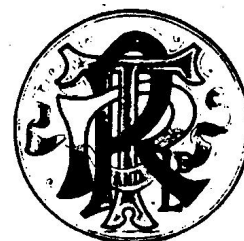


While preparing the draft sheets for Section 'P' of the New Illustrated Catalogue, it became clear that a number of dies were probably from the same maker and almost certainly used by the same user. The initial series I chanced upon, quickly expanded into the sequence that follows. John Nelson and Rosemary Smith have kindly provided supporting documentary evidence:

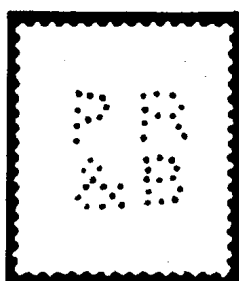
Plummer, Roddis & Tyrrell Ltd were registered on 24th June 1896 to acquire the businesses of:

Plummer & Lawford
Plummer, Roddis & Beecroft Ltd
R Tyrrell & Sons



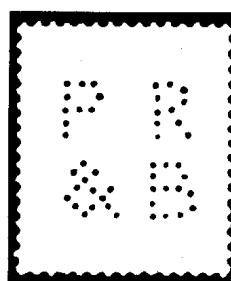
Fortunately, there are only two G.B. dies known with "PR/&B" lettering, and both are recorded with '342' Hastings postmarks on issues of Queen Victoria. This points to the likely user being ***Plummer, Roddis & Beecroft Ltd***, Drapers, Robertson St, Hastings.

1890-1895



P3800.01

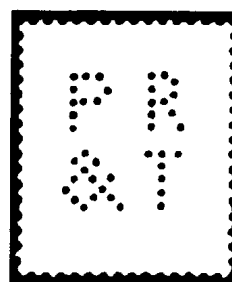
1895-1896



P3800.02

Plummer, Roddis & Tyrrell Ltd are known to have used the perfin "PR/&T" at their premises in Eastbourne, Folkstone and Hastings. They also had premises in Bournemouth and Boscombe

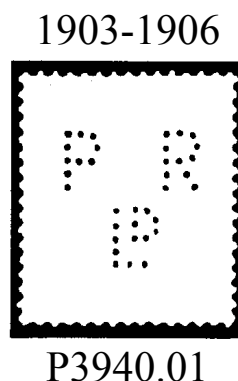
1896-1903



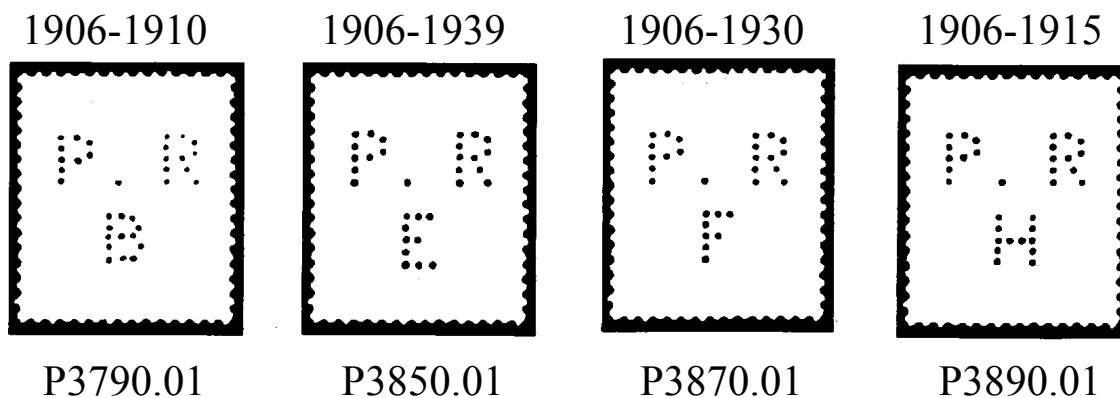
P3980.01

Rosemary Smith records their business as "General Drapers and Complete House Furnishers", and John Nelson adds that the name was changed from 'Plummer, Roddis & Tyrrell Ltd' to '*Plummer Roddis Ltd?*' in March 1903.

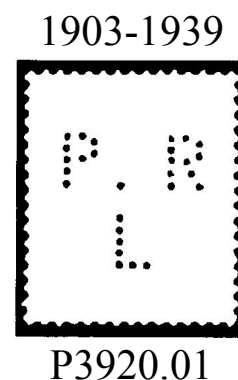
This allows us to assign 'Plummer Roddis Ltd' as a suspected identity for "PR/L^d" (P3940.01), known used during the early years of King Edward VII's reign. (East)bourne, Folkestone and Hastings postmarks have been reported.



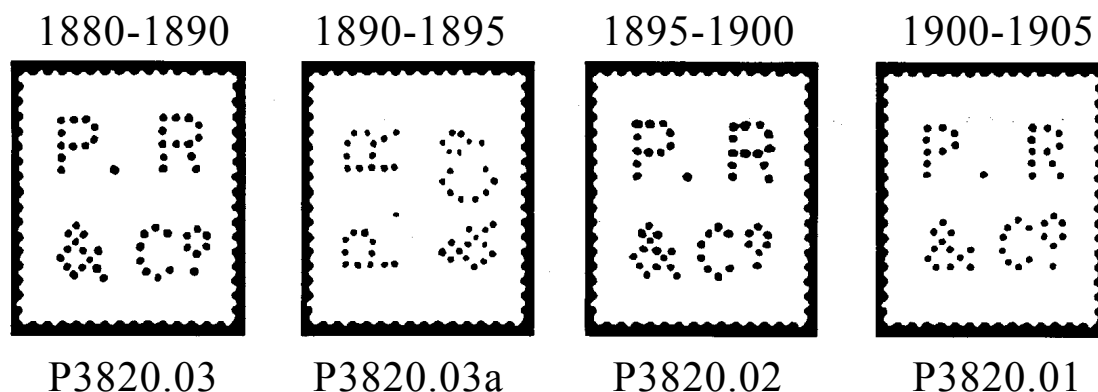
The original sequence noticed with the 'common format' was the following five dies. From postmark evidence, the bottom letter probably stands for Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Hastings and London. Plummer Roddis Ltd certainly had premises in the first four of these places.



The fifth die dates from a few years earlier and was the longest lived. It is known with both London & Hastings postmarks, although no premises are known in London.



The final twist to the sequence is the existence of yet another die which fits the same format, that of "P.R/&C⁰" (P3820.01). This die also dates from the early part of King Edward VII's reign and is known with Plymouth, Devon postmarks.



Unfortunately, Plummer Roddis Ltd do not seem to have had premises in Plymouth, so presumably the die was simply made by the same manufacturer as the preceding five. Four dies are shown above for completion, as all four are known with Plymouth postmarks, and were probably used sequentially by the same user.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add anything in the way of dates, postmarks, issues etc., for any of the dies illustrated in the article.

As an aside, I searched the 1881 Census of Great Britain for the unusual name of Roddis and find that there was only one 'Roddis' family living in the whole of Sussex - George Roddis, aged 45, **Draper**, living in Harborough House, **Hastings**. On the other hand, the surname Plummer is more common, but worthy of note is the entry for William Plummer, aged 44, **Draper**, employing 50 persons, and living at 3 Holmesdale Gardens, **Hastings**. These two must surely be the individuals involved in the various South Coast Drapery businesses.

Finally, a surf of the Internet for 'Plummer Roddis' resulted in the following piece of 'trivia'. '*Kipps*' written by the English novelist H. G. Wells, featured a young man who started work at **Plummer Roddis's Emporium** in Folkestone!